Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating depression in a subject comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of ~~a~~ an inhibitor of an α 1B subunit of N-type calcium channel ~~inhibitor~~.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~N-type calcium channel~~ inhibitor is an antibody specific for the α 1B subunit of N-type calcium channel.

5. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~N-type calcium channel~~ inhibitor is a transcription inhibitor of a gene encoding the α 1B subunit of N-type calcium channel.

6. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~N-type calcium channel~~ inhibitor is a translation inhibitor of a transcribed RNA of ~~a~~ the α 1B subunit of N-type calcium channel gene.

7. (Withdrawn) An anti-depression agent containing a N-type calcium channel inhibitor as an effective ingredient.

8. (Withdrawn) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the anti-depression agent contains an N-type calcium channel alpha 1B inhibitor as an effective ingredient.

9. (Withdrawn) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the N-type calcium channel inhibitor is a compound acting specifically upon an N-type calcium channel to inhibit its activity, an antibody combining specifically with the N-type calcium channel, a substance inhibiting transcription of a gene encoding the N-type calcium channel, or a substance inhibiting translation of a transcribed N-type calcium channel gene.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A screening method for an anti-depression agent, comprising:

obtaining a transformant by transfecting host cells with a vector containing an alpha 1B

    structural gene and a reporter gene;

culturing the transformant with a test sample for screening; and

measuring the expression of the reporter gene, wherein decreased expression of the reporter

    gene indicates that expression of the alpha 1B structural gene is decreased and that the test

    sample is an anti-depression agent.